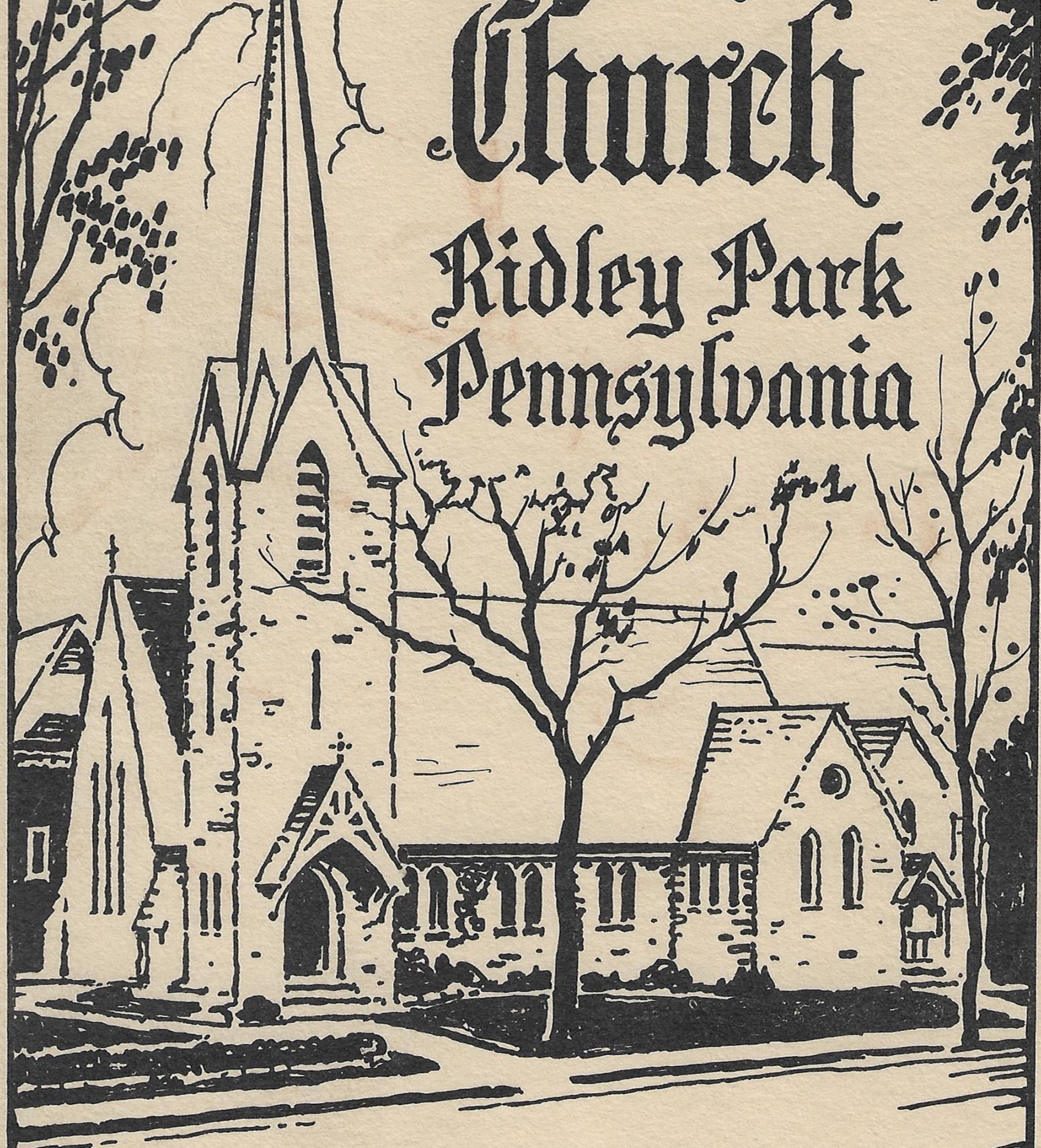
Christ Church

Ridley Park Pennsylvania



Seventieth Anniversary
June, 1949

W.M.

History of Christ Church Ridley Park Penna.

1879 ✝ 1949

compiled by
Charles M. Chesnut
and
William Mohr

The inception of Christ Church, Ridley Park is due to the architect of the P.W.& B. Railroad, T. P. Chandler, Jr., formerly resident in this suburb. By personal application he secured subscriptions warranting the commencement of an edifice, in the full belief that this would result in the speedy organization of a parish.

A corner stone was laid by Bishop Stevens, July 1, 1873.

At that time there was no formal organization. Of his own motion Mr. Chandler had gratuitously prepared plans and specifications; and had acted generally as promoter, committee and treasurer.

Of the more earnest to aid the undertaking should be named Mr. and Mrs. John F. Young - long since deceased.

The site selected was lots 638 and 639, at the North corner of Swarthmore and Ridley Avenues. The foundation walls reached the surface and the first floor joist was laid; and there the work stopped for five and a half years, the projector having left the neighborhood. During this long delay the stones and lumber were obstinately doing nothing but gathering weeds and rubbish and more or less of decay; while the Presbyterian Church across the way had been organized and its edifice completed. It then became obvious that the services of the two congregations, being so near, would be mutually distracting, and a new site was chosen - lots 167, 168 and 169, Sellers Avenue; and in November 1878 the original material was removed in order to make a fresh start. But in all this time no manner of organization has recorded itself.

April 1878, Mr. Chandler complains to the Bishop

that he had "reconstructed drawings several times, and had had estimates made, but that there was nobody who would organize and get the work started." He accordingly begs that the Bishop will get somebody to do something, naming S. T. Fuller as the one apparently most interested.

The matter was referred to Rev. F. H. Bushnell of the Diocesan Mission who shortly afterwards began public services at the railroad station pursuant to the following call:

SPECIAL NOTICE

"As the Bishop of the Diocese has requested me to interest myself in Establishing the Services of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Ridley Park, Regular Services will hereafter be held in R. R. Station every Sunday afternoon at four o'clock, Commencing Sunday, June 16, 1878.

Rev. F. H. Bushnell
Gen. Agent of the Board of
Missions of the Diocese of
Pennsylvania."

These services were held during the Summer and early Fall of that year, and then were removed to a vacant store on Hinckley Avenue near by.

In October following, the Bishop desired Mr. Bushnell to call a "Congregational Meeting", looking to a canonical organization, naming the following as trustees of the enterprize: Gen. N. L. Jeffries, H. F. Kenney, S. T. Fuller, Chas. Leedom, J. F. Young, John Smith, T. P. Chandler, F. H. Bushnell.

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We now have our first parish record, June 18, 1879, six years after the laying of the corner stone.

A congregational meeting was held at the house of the Rev. F. H. Bushnell, Ridley Park, attended by Messrs. Bushnell, Jeffries, Ross, Fuller, Young, Hearley, Craven and Walmsley.

Nominations for 13 vestrymen were made and the nominees were declared unanimously elected, as follows:

S. T. Fuller, George R. Howell, H. F. Kenney, J. H. Brazier, M. B. Hutchinson, Chas. Leedom, Geo. W. Moore, N. L. Jeffries, Fredk. Hearley, W. H. Walmsley, Rob't. Craven, O. S. Ross and Francis G. Smith.

At this meeting a petition for a charter was signed, and at the vestry meeting immediately following, Rev. F. H. Bushnell was elected Rector. Each vestryman with the aid of an appeal signed by the Bishop, was charged with the duty of soliciting contributions to the new Church, whose edifice was now being erected on Sellers Ave. It was hoped to complete the same without having recourse to a mortgage.

In December 1878, the material first laid on Swarthmore Ave. had been removed to the new site and the work was begun afresh. During the Winter and early Spring the walls had slowly but carefully gone up under the hand of one mason and an assistant; but when the gables were reached more help was secured and things moved faster.

As an example of the conscientious pains taken with the masonry, we note that the excellent

hewn stone arch over the chancel was not at first intended to show. It was an afterthought to leave it uncovered, which accounts for its appearing sunken below the general level of the plastered wall adjoining.

The stone used throughout is from the Port Deposit quarries and was contributed by S. T. Fuller. To this same generous vestryman the Church is indebted for the imposing memorial window at the West end; also for the tower-bell weighing 1015 pounds and costing $315. Innumerable other services, in connection with the organization and construction, were rendered by this gentleman and his excellent wife, who, unfortunately for the parish, removed many years ago.

Closely in the line of such good offices were those of H. F. Kenney, then Gen. Supt. of the P.W. & B.R.R. and one of our original trustees. In addition to his valuable assistance personally in organization, many favors from the R.R. Co. are to be credited to his influence.

It is but just to make special note of these benefactions since, at the time we write of, these persons were not members of the Episcopal Church.

The Ridley Park Association, with its noble gift of three lots, and a later donation of trees and shrubs, is entitled to mention here. Its generosity was well seconded by its resident agent, John Smith, who also acted as one of our trustees at the beginning.

The three windows in the apse were the gift of R. Craven in memory of different members of his family.

The tiling of the vestibule was a contribution of the architect.

As the church drew near completion it was found that notwithstanding the original intention to finish it free from debt, it would be impossible to do so within reasonable time. Accordingly, in May, 1880, a loan of $1500. was authorized to be funded on the property.

Sunday, July 25th, 1880, at 4 o'clock P. M. the first services were held in the new Church, conducted by Rev. F. H. Bushnell. Everything seemed complete, everything beautiful and impressive to the throng of worshippers.

Everything indeed, was "beautiful and impressive", for in the day of small things, it is wisdom to make light of privations. Few in that audience knew that the "altar" - which served its purpose perfectly - was a rough packing box, covered dexterously, if not ecclesiastically, with crimson wall-paper.

The bell was hung in place soon afterwards; and about the same time the Rector and Vestry of Christ Church, Germantown, presented the chaste marble baptismal font now standing near the entrance. A little later Gen. Jeffries contributed the frescoing.

The embroidery of pendants for the lectern and of altar cloths was the work and gift of Miss C. J. Taylor.

As to material equipment the little church was now complete; and harmony and Christian fellowship reigned. Summing up what had been done within 18 months we may record that the entire cost of the edifice and furniture, including

the cash value of the gifts, so far as this is known, was about $6,000. The funded indebtedness $1,500. a small part of the property value.

There were other gifts, as of stone, sand, freight and the memorial windows, of unnamed value, and therefore not included in the foregoing estimate.

In November 1880, Mr. Bushnell resigned the Rectorship, bearing with him the esteem and thanks of the congregation.

In December following, temporary arrangements were made with Rev. T. L. Franklin, for supplying the pulpit. These continued until the end of the year. It was then found that, according to common experience, the unusual strain for funds while the church was building could not be relied on for steady revenue; and, with pew-rents amounting to only $325. per annum, economy had to be enforced.

Might the expense of a Rector be saved ?

With the Bishop's approval, a Lay Reader, W. C. Taylor, was appointed January 1881.

The first code of By-Laws was adopted in April, 1881.

June 13, 1881, a call to the rectorship was extended to Rev. George McIlvain DuBoise, at a salary of $500. July 1, 1881, Mr. DuBoise entered upon his duties. This arrangement continued with great acceptance and largely to the benefit of the Church until March 1882, when, unhappily the Rector was obliged to resign on account of failing health.

The office of Lay Reader was resumed by Mr. W. C. Taylor and held under an appointment which the Bishop made standing, subject to the requirements of the vestry.

In March, 1882, a large two-bank organ, said to have cost $600. was purchased from Trinity Church, West Philadelphia, for $137.50.

During this Spring the Carriage shed was built at a cost of $290.

In March, 1883 the pulpit services were conducted by Rev. J. C. Craven who remained until the following June, when a call was given to Rev. Richard L. Howell. Mr. Howell acted as Rector until the following month; but, hesitating to accept the position in due form, the call was withdrawn and Lay services followed.

On Saturday afternoon, June 23, 1883, in the presence of a crowd of worshippers, the Church was consecrated by Bishop Stevens. It was a service ever memorable with the comparatively few who had struggled so faithfully from the beginning.

In August, 1883, the Board of Missions granted an allowance of $300. The following November the vestry had the pleasure of receiving a report from the Accounting Warden that there were now no debts outstanding.

December 24, 1883, Rev. W. F. C. Morsell accepted the Rectorship, but did not begin active service until February.

May, 1884 the envelope system in offertory was adopted.

In June, 1885, the building of a Rectory on the Church ground was decided on, the cost limited to $4,500. - $3,000. to be raised by mortgage, the remainder from subscriptions.

By careful management, employing no master contractor, but the Building Committee securing contracts from the lowest bidders on specific portions of the building, the limit was not much exceeded, but as the subscriptions were not all promptly met, the amount of the mortgage was increased to $3,500. The construction was completed June, 1886, but the Rector with his family did not occupy it until midsummer.

October, 1888, members of the church living at Collingdale requested stated services at that place. With the approval of neighboring Churches, "Christ Church Chapel, Collingdale" was accordingly established in the December following. This connection was severed in July 1889.

October, 1889, the Rector was requested to call a congregational Meeting "to discuss the question of a free church."

November, 1889, a boys vested choir was provided for by a small appropriation. The choir had been in existence, in fact, for some months and was the inauguration of our present impressive choir service. The choristers met in the Rectory - there being no Parish House - and the procession was in the open, with about a dozen boys. As may be supposed the effect was decidedly picturesque.

In May, 1890, we relieved the Convocation of Chester of a subsidy of $150. a year which

had been granted on the Rector's Salary.

The memorial window in the North side was placed October, 1891, by F. L. and B. B. Cooper, as a tribute to their mother.

The following year the brass altar cross was given by C. G. Darrach in memory of his eldest daughter. The brass book-rest and a flower vase came through Mr. Darrach.

In the matter of contributions we may here group others, not named in their date order but assembled for more convenient reference:

A silver plated Alms Basin from J. H. Brazier
An Alms Basin from Trinity Church, West Philadelphia.
Kneeling stools - Work given by Mr. Richmond.
Chancel Lamp and Hangings, by Mrs. Harper.
Brass candlesticks and Vase for altar by Mrs. J. T. Fields - afterwards withdrawn.
Alms Basin, by Mr. Thackera.
Three Brass Registers, by Z. T. Hall.
Electric wiring of Parish House, R. Hall
Electric lights in Chancel, L. Dalmas.
Bible. A thank offering from J. N. Fitzgerald
Lectern, by Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Fitzgerald
Pictures in Parish House, Messrs. Fields, Collier & Fitzgerald.
Ciborium, A thank offering from Mrs. Blanton
A heavy, oaken Altar, Memorial from various contributors.
Altar Linen from Japan, given by Mrs. G. Cooke
Reredos, Woman's Auxiliary.
Maple flooring for Chancel, by Mr. Andrews.
Linen altar covering, Mrs. James.
Small brass altar-vases, Thank offering by Mrs. Cooke.
Hymn board, from John J. Collier.

Bulletin Board, from A. T. Goodman.
Notice Board
Appropriately here we name also the Silver Communion Service, a memorial, first used at Easter 1901. A special interest lies in the fact that members of the congregation contributed of their old silver and gold to be wrought into these sacred vessels.

April 24, 1892, Rev. W. F. C. Morsell resigned the Rectorship, which was thereupon offered to Rev. R. Bowden Shepherd, but was declined.

July 20, 1892, Rev. Edwin A. Gernant was elected to fill the vacancy and shortly entered on his duties.

January, 1893, the Parish House was contracted for, and a mortgage of $1,500. was created to aid the building fund. In the early Fall the building was ready for use. The cost was about $2,200.

In the winter of this year, 1893, steam heat was introduced into the Church. The upper floor of the Parish House was fitted up for a Gymnasium, and equipped through the liberality of Mr. F. L. Cooper.

Electric Lights were placed in the Church.

July, 1894, a new code of By-Laws was adopted.

November, 1895, Mr. J. J. Collier was appointed Lay Reader.

May, 1897, the Rectory porch was extended to width of the front, at the instance of the women of the Parish, who bore the expense,

amounting to $100.

May 2, 1898, Rev. E. A. Gernant resigned the Rectorship in order to accept appointment to a mission at Overbrook, Pa., tendered him by Bishop Whitaker.

June 29, 1898, Rev. Francis C. Steinmetz, Assistant at Old Christ Church, Philadelphia, accepted the Rectorship and entered on his duties at his installation in August.

During the several succeeding lecture seasons the new Rector has enlarged the opportunities of the Parish and its vicinity by enlisting support for the University Extension course of lectures.

The stated agencies as at present shown by the Diocesan Report, are: Parish Guild, consisting of Woman's Auxiliary to Board of Missions, Woman's Auxiliary to Convocation of Chester, Ever Ready Chapter, Girl's Sewing Chapter, Boy's Club, Vested Choir, University Extension Centre, and Fruit, Flower and Ice Mission.

March 1899, the envelope system in connection with the offertory was revived, and was followed by the enlarged receipts which almost invariably result from this method.

Through the liberality of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald, a beautiful brass lectern was set in place as a memorial of a son recently entered into life eternal.

December 24, 1899 a fine pipe organ signalized the church's progressive spirit and ability. It is matter for congratulation that, straitened though we have been for funds for improve-

ments, in this particular instance, money flowed in marvelously, the entire expense being met as soon as the instrument was set up. The cost of organ and motor was about $1,150.

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This portion of the history was compiled by Mr. Charles M. Chesnut, for 25 years Rector's Warden, and was read by him at the 50th Anniversary observance. It has been continued for the 70th Anniversary of the first Congregational Meeting for the Canonical organization of the Church by William Mohr, Secretary of the Vestry from 1921 to 1949.

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Happy indeed would be the hearts of the earnest band of worshippers through whose untiring effort Christ Church, Ridley Park came into being, could they see the beautiful church which stands today as a monument to their faithfulness, and know the splendid men and women who now carry on in their stead!

They have been, as is always so, years of ups and downs, but years of progress nonetheless. Continuing from the church records to December 1899, as compiled by Mr. Chesnut, we begin with the active and progressive regime of the Rev. Mr. Steinmetz, who remained as Rector

of the Parish for ten years.

During the year of 1902 a long planned enlargement of the church building, to provide much needed seating capacity, became a reality. The contract for the work was let in May. The first stone in the new foundation was laid by Mr. Steinmetz on June 11th and the corner stone was laid by Bishop Leighton Coleman, of Delaware, on June 24th. A large congregation, with 20 clergymen, took part in the ceremony.

The enlarged Church was first used for Divine Service on Sunday, September 14th, and was consecrated on Tuesday, the 4th of November by Bishop Coadjutor Alexander Mackay-Smith, of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Many members and friends of the Parish, with 18 clergy were in attendance on this occasion.

The extension of the Church included the present transepts and cross aisle in which the pulpit and lectern stand, new choir stalls, a new organ chamber and sacristy with the removal of the organ to the opposite side of the chancel. The entire cost of the work was met through subscriptions, gifts, and a legacy of $400. At this time extensive repairs and additions were made to the old building and tower, the cost of these being carried through loans and gifts of materials and labor. At this time, also, the Ascension Memorial Window was placed above the altar as the gift of Mr. Louis P. Dalmas, in memory of his parents, Charles Joseph and Anna Bruner Dalmas. The mosaic floor in the chancel and sanctuary were given by Mr. A. O. Deshong "and others", the maple floor throughout the nave of the Church by Mr. David B. Andrews. A new reredos was provided by Major A. F. Goodman, and addi-

tional pews, wainscoting, windows and other material was secured by Mr. Charles Leedom. A chest of drawers for the sacristy was provided by the Sanctuary Chapter.

During the ensuing years in the beautiful "New Church" attendance and membership continued to increase, marking a prosperous and constructive period. In January of 1908 the women of the Guild requested the privilege of making improvements in the Parish House, their so-called "improvements" amounting to $1,065.

In June of 1908, the Rev. Mr. Steinmetz resigned his Rectorship to accept a call to Christ Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

The Rev. Robert W. Benedict became Rector in September, 1908 and served until May of 1911, when he resigned to take up a new work in Wyoming.

The Rev. Gilbert Pember became Rector on February 1st, 1912, remaining for three years, when he was called to St. Michael's Church, Germantown.

The following April the Rev. Francis B. Barnett was called and took charge July 1st, 1915.

An extension of twenty feet was made to the Parish House the following year, the space being divided into two rooms on the first floor and the entire length added to the social room on the second floor. It was in the original plan that the basement would be equipped as a boy's club room, but it was soon apparent that the excessive moisture found throughout that area would prevent its use and the excavation was later refilled. Almost the

entire cost of approximately $5,000 for the project was raised through pledges from members of the congregation, and a final indebtedness of $500. was paid by the Women's Guild.

Soon after the entry of the United States into World War I, the Rector, Mr. Barnett, was granted a year's leave of absence, volunteered for service as a Chaplain and went to France. The Rev. William H. Anthony was Rector-in-Charge of the Parish during that summer of 1917 and the Rev. Henry S. Bedinger for the remainder of the time. Mr. Barnett returned June 1st from France and resumed his duties until the following September, when he tendered his permanent resignation to enter the Army Chemical Warfare Service.

The Rev. Charles E. Eder was called as Rector in February of 1919 and remained for six years, when he resigned to accept a call to Grace Church, Mt. Airy, Germantown.

During the summer of 1920 the original debt of $1,500 on the parish house was paid off and the mortgage cancelled, the money having been raised through the efforts of the Women's Guild, and that Fall the old carriage shed was rebuilt into a garage for the use of the Rector. Work on this project was donated by E. Roberts Hall.

Many memorial gifts were made during this period, including the renovation of the Sacristy.

During the summer of 1923, $3,400 was raised to pay off the mortgage of $2,400 on the Rectory, and to make a thank-offering of $1,000 for missions, in observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the first effort to

establish the Church in Ridley Park. The burning of the mortgage took place with appropriate ceremonies at a parish party on Shrove Tuesday, 1924.

A set of chimes was offered by Mr. John L. Hawthorne in 1924, but the church tower was found inadequate for such an installation and the gift could not be accepted.

The Rev. Frederick A. Warden became Rector January first, 1926. He retired June 30th, 1943 because of ill health, and was elected Rector Emeritus in July. His death occurred September 13th, 1945. The Rev. James M. Collins, of the Philadelphia City Mission, occupied the pulpit during the greater part of Mr. Warden's illness.

The Rev. George E. Condit, now Rector of St. Matthias Church, West Oak Lane, Philadelphia, who was organist at Christ Church for several years, was recommended as a candidate for Holy Orders by the Rector, Mr. Warden, and Vestry, in February, 1936.

The present Rector, the Rev. Albert O. Judd, was called in 1943 and entered upon his duties on October 1st. With the new Rector came an incentive and inspiration for renewed effort in every branch of the Church's work. A volunteer choir of men and women, under the leadership of Walter T. Boyer, organist and Choirmaster, contribute much to the beauty of each service and has rendered a number of excellent musical programs.

In June, 1947 a new Moller organ was installed at a cost of approximately $7,000. A series of concerts, introducing the new organ was

sponsored by members and friends of the parish during the following winter.

An active parish program under the leadership of capable and efficient officers is currently in order.

In addition to the Vestry of nine members, and a Parish Treasurer, the organizations include:

The Altar Guild
Sunday School
A Men's Brotherhood
The Parish Council
Women's Guild
Women's Club
Men's Club
Woman's Auxiliary
Young People's Fellowship

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Four Missions in nearby communities were sponsored by the Ridley Park Church.

"Christ Church Chapel", Collingdale, now Trinity Church, was established in November, 1888, at the request of members of the Collingdale congregation, who had for some time been holding "Parlor Services", under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Morsell. The Ridley Park Vestry appointed F. M. Lorrillierre as Assistant Accounting Warden in charge of the financial management of the project, and the Mission became independent of Ridley Park in July, 1889.

St. John's Mission was started at Essington by the Rev. Mr. Steinmetz in June, 1902. It continued under the direction of Christ Church until 1943, when the Vestry of Christ Church

requested a release from the Diocese from that responsibility in order that future Rectors might devote their full time to the Church in Ridley Park.

In 1906 St. James, Prospect Park was started, and placed by Bishop Whittaker under the care of Christ Church, with the Rev. W. B. Nash as Assistant to Mr. Steinmetz and Vicar of Prospect Park. This Mission became independent of Ridley Park in 1910.

During the Rectorship of Mr. Pember, in 1912, St. Peter's Mission in Eddystone was started by him and continued in charge of Ridley Park until the new memorial St. Luke's Church was built in 1917.

Many articles of church furniture, through rebuilding and replacements were sent to the mission at Essington and to St. Stephen's Mission at Norwood. The organ which was replaced by the first pipe organ was sent to the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge.

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It would seem appropriate to add a chapter on other gifts and memorials presently in use to this story of Christ Church, although it is impossible to list them all as to dates, because of imperfect records.

The beautiful carved Caen stone altar, with limestone steps and oaken reredos, was installed in February, 1926, as the gift of Mrs. John V. Mershon in memory of her mother, Mrs. Cordelia R. Worrall. It replaces the carved oaken altar which was given by the women shortly after the church was built. The original altar

was a large packing box, properly covered and dressed.

Above the original altar were three small memorial windows, one in each panel of the apse, placed by Robert Craven, the first Accounting Warden. These windows were moved to the south transept when the church was enlarged and are now a fitting part of the Chapel.

The Altar Rail was given by Mr. Louis P. Clark in memory of his father, Col. Joseph Claypoole Clark, a former Vestryman. The cushions at the altar rail, inside the sanctuary, and on the fald stool were the gift of Mr. James R. James. The fald stool, or litany desk, was given by Mrs. A. J. Close. The choir stalls were provided by the Sunday School.

The Altar Cross is in memory of Lydia Amy Darrach, from her father, William C. G. Darrach, and the small altar vases as well as one of the round brass vases, were the gift of her mother. The matching round vase was later given by Mrs. L. T. Fields.

The Eucharistic candlesticks are in memory of Mr. Charles E. Kingston, for many years Rector's Warden, given by Mrs. Kingston.

The Processional Cross replaces one given by Mr. Darrach and was given at Easter, 1921, by Dr. John V. Mershon, in memory of his mother, Amanda Valentine Mershon. The present Bible replaces the one given with the lectern by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Fitzgerald, Sr. in memory of their son, William Thompson Fitzgerald. It is a memorial to Henry M. Worrall, father of Mrs. Mershon.

A new bishop's chair, hand carved to match the reredos, was presented by members of the Given family in memory of their parents, William H. and Ida Given. The former bishop's chair, with the oaken altar, was given to the Mission at Essington.

The Oriental rug for the altar steps is the gift of Mr. John W. Graham, of Philadelphia.

The tall candlesticks, or service lights, are the gift of Mr. George Stull in memory of his mother, Edith M. Stull, as was the missal stand, in memory of Miss Jennie B. Chant, sister of Mrs. Stull. The altar and sanctuary candles are provided in memory of Mrs. Mary E. Hawthorne by her nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Lappin.

The receiving bason is the gift of Mrs. Henry F. Miller in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Lion. The reflector to illuminate the Ascension window for evening services was placed by Mrs. Miller. The American flag in the sanctuary was provided as a memorial in the First World War by members of the Men's Club. The Church flag which hangs before the pulpit was given by members of the congregation, and the American flag on the opposite side was given by the Young People's Fellowship, in 1933, replacing the gift of Dr. George H. Cooke in memory of his son, St. George Cooke, in 1915.

The pulpit and hanging lamp was given by Dr. Cooke in memory of his wife, Sarah L. Cooke. A fund of $100 to provide for the lighting of the lamp "at all services", was also provided by him.

Three bronze tablets are found on the church walls, two of them in recognition of monetary gifts. These were a legacy of $500 from Mrs. Catherine Bronson, which was used for the enlargement of the church, and a legacy of $6000 for an endowment fund from Mrs. Charlotte M. Woodruff, for many years Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary.

The third tablet records the gift of the present lighting system and lanterns, given by Mrs. George C. Stull in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Barrett Chant.

The credence on the rear wall was given by Mrs. Mary E. Hawthorne "in honor of those serving their Country" in World War II. The publication of the parish leaflet for the year of 1944 was given in memory of Mrs. James H. Hurtt, Jr. by members of the Hurtt family. The brass baptismal bason which is used inside the font was purchased with baptismal gifts made to the Rector. The baptismal shell was given by Mrs. H. F. Miller. The ewer was given by Mrs. C. E. Kingston in memory of her father, Col. Clark.

The font was given at the time of the renovation of the church, in 1902, by Mr. B. B. Cooper in memory of his daughters, Jeanette, Mabel and Marcia Cooper. The window above the font is a memorial to Florabel H. Fuller, given by her father, Mr. S. T. Fuller. The two smaller windows on the north side were placed by Mr. J. L. and Mr. B. B. Cooper in memory of their mother.

A recent conversion of the south transept into a beautiful Chapel was made, the entire furnishings being provided by Mr. W. Parke Heston

in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Z. Heston.

Following the death of Dr. H. Furness Taylor, some years ago, a memorial gift of $250 was made by Mrs. Taylor. This money was used for renovating and re-furnishing the sacristy and for the bronze tablet which was placed on the wall.

Many memorial gifts and thank-offerings have been made throughout the years, in the way of altar linens, altar books, alms basons, and their replacements, the present altar books being the gift of Mrs. John M. Strong in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rigby. A fund of $500 was also given by Mrs. Strong in memory of her husband, John M. Strong.

Among the Communion vessels which can be cited as specific memorials are the large chalice and paten, which were fashioned from gifts of gold and silver by members of the congregation, and used first on Easter, 1901. The smaller chalice and paten, with its gold cloth burse and veil, for use on the Chapel altar, was given by the Woodin Family in memory of their son and brother, Harold Woodin, Veteran of World War II and faithful Server at the altar of Christ Church.

The silver covered bread box is the thank-offering of Mrs. Henry Blanton, then Directress of the Sanctuary Chapter. The silver flagon, for extra supply of Communion wine, was purchased by the Sanctuary Chapter for Easter, 1901. The glass cruets were provided by the Sanctuary Chapter, and the lavabo is the gift of all members of the present Altar Guild.

A private Communion Set, with linens, for use of the sick, was given by Mr. and Mrs. William Mohr in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Mohr and Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Page, and a handsome funeral pall has been recently given by Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Miller.

On Christmas Eve, 1948, a newly installed set of electronic chimes pealed forth the well-loved Christmas carols, in welcome to those who attended the Midnight Service. They were the gift of Horace B. Griffith, Jr. in memory of his father, a longtime member of Christ Church Vestry.

The most recent memorial takes the form of rebuilt vestibule doors, surmounted by a carved oaken grill, placed in memory of Thomas A. McMahon by those who served with him as members of the Vestry.

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Thus is concluded the story of Christ Church, Ridley Park ----- What will the future record bring forth? Let us go forward with highest hopes for even greater progress in the years to come, as we who now labor and those who will follow after press on in loving service to the glory of Almighty God.

History of Christ Church Ridley Park

Penna.

1879 - 1949

compiled by

Charles M. Conrad

and

Walter Meyer